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House Engrossed Senate Bill

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2005

SENATE BILL 1038

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-701.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO EDUCATION TESTING.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-701.01. High school: graduation: requirements: community
5 college or university courses: transfer from
6 private schools: academic credit

7 A. The state board of education shall:

8 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in section 15-101
9 and incorporating the academic standards adopted by the state board of
10 education, for the graduation of pupils from high school.

11 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from
12 high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of
13 reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.

14 3. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741 for
15 the graduation of pupils from high school in at least the areas of reading,
16 writing and mathematics and shall establish passing scores for each such
17 test. A PUPIL SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PASS THE COMPETENCY TEST REQUIRED IN
18 THIS PARAGRAPH TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL IF THE PUPIL MEETS THE DEFINITION
19 OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF THIS CHAPTER AND THE
20 PUPIL'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN PROVIDES FOR ACADEMIC GOALS COVERED IN
21 THE STATE ADOPTED COMPETENCY TEST THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH THE PUPIL'S ACADEMIC
22 POTENTIAL AND THE PUPIL HAS MET ALL THE GOALS BEFORE GRADUATION.

23 4. A PUPIL NOT SUCCESSFULLY PASSING THE REQUIRED COMPETENCY TEST SHALL
24 GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL WITH A RECOGNIZED DIPLOMA IF THE PUPIL MEETS ALL OF
25 THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

26 (a) COMPLETES THE REQUIRED COURSEWORK AND REQUIRED CREDITS.

27 (b) HAS MAINTAINED A PASSING GRADE IN READING, WRITING OR MATHEMATICS
28 IN THE COURSES THE PUPIL FAILED TO ACHIEVE A PASSING SCORE ON THE SECTIONS OF
29 THE ARIZONA INSTRUMENT TO MEASURE STANDARDS TEST.

30 (c) TAKES THE COMPETENCY TEST THAT WAS FIRST REQUIRED AND EACH TIME
31 THEREAFTER IT HAS BEEN OFFERED WHILE THE PUPIL ATTENDED A HIGH SCHOOL IN
32 ARIZONA SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO ADMINISTER THE COMPETENCY EXAM.

33 (d) HAS RECEIVED A WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE,
34 ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN READING, WRITING AND MATHEMATICS COURSES FROM
35 THE INSTRUCTOR FOR ANY TUTORING THE PUPIL PARTICIPATED IN THEIR SOPHOMORE,
36 JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL.

37 5. A PUPIL SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PASS THE COMPETENCY TEST REQUIRED
38 IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SECTION TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL IF THE PUPIL
39 TRANSFERS INTO THE DISTRICT FROM OUT-OF-STATE AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY PASSED A
40 STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT TEST ON STATE ADOPTED STANDARDS THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY
41 EQUIVALENT TO THE STATE BOARD ADOPTED ACADEMIC STANDARDS.

42 B. The governing board of a school district shall:

43 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the
44 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.

45 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high
46 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include accomplishment

1 of the academic standards in at least reading, writing, mathematics, science
2 and social studies, as determined by district assessment. Other criteria may
3 include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance.

4 C. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
5 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school which
6 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency
7 requirements which the state board prescribes.

8 D. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for the
9 passage of pupils in courses which are required for graduation from high
10 school.

11 E. A teacher shall determine whether to pass or fail a pupil in a
12 course in high school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 3 on the basis
13 of the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed. The governing
14 board, if it reviews the decision of a teacher to pass or fail a pupil in a
15 course in high school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base
16 its decision on the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed.

17 F. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may be
18 met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects at a
19 community college or university, if the course is at a higher level than the
20 course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the course is
21 not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal to or higher
22 than the level of a high school course. The governing board shall determine
23 if the subject matter of the community college or university course is
24 appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil intends it to fulfill and
25 if the level of the community college or university course is less than,
26 equal to or higher than a high school course, and the governing board shall
27 award one-half of a carnegie unit for each three semester hours of credit the
28 pupil earns in an appropriate community college or university course. If a
29 pupil is not satisfied with the decision of the governing board regarding the
30 amount of credit granted or the subjects for which credit is granted, the
31 pupil may request that the state board of education review the decision of
32 the governing board, and the state board shall make the final determination
33 of the amount of credit to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The
34 governing board shall not limit the number of credits ~~which~~ **THAT IS** required for
35 high school graduation ~~which~~ **AND THAT** may be met by taking community college
36 or university courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

37 1. "Community college" means an educational institution that is
38 operated by a community college district as defined in section 15-1401 or a
39 postsecondary educational institution under the jurisdiction of an Indian
40 tribe recognized by the United States department of the interior.

41 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the
42 Arizona board of regents.

43 G. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided with
44 a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied by the
45 school district. A pupil may request to take an examination in each
46 particular course in which credit has been denied. The school district shall

1 accept the credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an
2 examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by
3 a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the
4 examination is based. In addition to the above requirements, the governing
5 board of a school district may prescribe requirements for the acceptance of
6 the credits of pupils who transfer from a private school.

7 H. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow high school
8 pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic course or
9 subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject without enrolling
10 in the course or subject.